

Practice

The activities include revision material.

1 In each space put *a/an* or *the*, or leave the space *blank*.

It has been announced that for (1) *the* third consecutive month there has been (2) rise in (3) number of (4) people unemployed, rather than (5) fall that had been predicted. (6) rise was blamed on (7) continuing uncertainty over (8) government economic policy, and couldn't come at (9) worse time for (10) Prime Minister, who is facing (11) growing criticism over (12) way (13) present crisis is being handled. (14) MPs are increasingly voicing (15) fears that despite (16) recent devaluation of (17) pound and cuts in (18) interest rates, (19) government still expects (20) recovery of the economy to take three or even four years. To make (21) matters worse, (22) number of small businesses going into (23) liquidation is still at (24) record level, and (25) housing market is showing no signs of recovery. Some backbenchers expect (26) general election before (27) end of (28) winter unless there is (29) rapid change of (30) fortune.

2 Underline the most suitable option. A dash (–) means that no article is included.

- Helen doesn't like the– cream cakes sold in *a/the* local bakery.
- The*– handball is fast becoming *a/the* popular sport worldwide.
- We could see that *the*– Alps were covered in *the*– snow.
- It's *a*– long time since I met *a*– lovely person like you!
- Diana has *a*– degree in *the*– engineering from *the*– University of London.
- At *the*– present moment, *the*– man seems to have *the/an* uncertain future.
- The*– problem for *the*– today's students is how to survive financially.
- The*– French enjoy spending holidays in *the*– countryside.
- Please do not turn on *a/the* water-heater in *a/the* bathroom.
- Sue bought *a/the* Picasso I was telling you about *the*– last week.

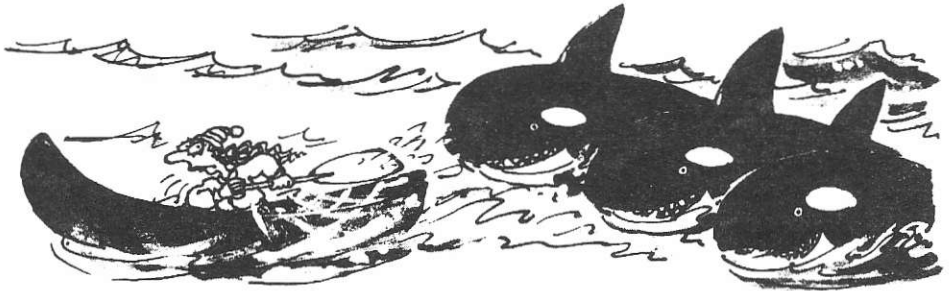
3 Correct the errors in these sentences.

- a) It's not a first-class accommodation unless it has a private bathroom.
It's not first-class accommodation unless it has a private bathroom.
- b) On this record twins play piano duet.
.....
- c) The halfway through meal we realised what waiter had said.
.....
- d) If the Mrs Hillier phones, say I'm away on trip.
.....
- e) There is a wonderful scenery in eastern part of Turkey.
.....
- f) Cocker spaniel is one of most popular pet dogs.
.....
- g) There is going to be fog and a cold weather all the next week.
.....
- h) I spent very interesting holiday at the Lake Coniston in England.
.....
- i) We are against war in general, so of course we are against war like this
between superpower and developing country.
.....
- j) The burglaries are definitely on increase.
.....

4 In each space put *a/an* or *the*, or leave the space blank.

- a) I'm going to stand for Parliament at *the* next election.
- b) When I left station, I had to stand in queue for
..... taxi for long time.
- c) We took trip around London and saw Tower
Bridge.
- d) happiness of the majority depends on hard
work for everyone.
- e) most main roads in this part of country follow
..... line of roads built by Romans.
- f) Have you got latest record by Gipsy Kings?
- g) If I had time, I would like to take up archery.
- h) We spent pleasant evening having drinks at
..... Robin Hood.
- i) Nile flows right through city.
- j) summer I spent in USA was one of best in my life.

5 In each space put *a/an* or *the*, or leave the space *blank*.



- a) She was the first woman to cross Atlantic in canoe.
- b) Go down High Street and turn right into Mill Road.
- c) Please let me carry shopping. It's least I can do.
- d) I don't like milk in coffee.
- e) At end of busy day, sleep is best tonic.
- f) James Joyce I knew wasn't novelist and wasn't Irish either.
- g) We'll go for walk if sun comes out.
- h) This is last time I do you favour for a while.
- i) I'm staying in Hilton so you can leave me message.

6 There are ten extra appearances of *the* in the following text. Underline them.

The word processor and the calculator are without a shadow of doubt here to stay, and in the many respects our lives are the much richer for them. But the teachers and other academics are claiming that we are now starting to feel the first significant wave of their effects on a generation of the users. It seems nobody under the age of 20 can spell or add up any more. Even several professors at leading universities have commented on the detrimental effect the digital revolution has had on the most intelligent young minds in the country. The problem, evidently, lies with the automatic spellcheck now widely available on the word processing software. Professor John Silver of the Sydney University, Australia, said: 'Why should we bother to learn how to spell correctly, or for that matter to learn even the most basic of the mathematical sums, when at the press of a button we have our problem answered for us. The implications are enormous. Will the adults of the future look to the computer to make the decisions for them, to tell them who to marry or what the house to buy? Are we heading for a future individual incapable of the independent human thought?'

7 In each space put *a/an* or *the*, or leave the space *blank*.

- a) Please watch *the* cabin attendant as she demonstrates use of oxygen mask.
- b) Paul spent half of his life in Far East.
- c) You have to use at least pint and half of milk.
- d) Dick has sore throat and is taking medicine.
- e) We arranged accommodation on outskirts of city.
- f) There is very difficult crossword in '..... Times'.
- g) Could you give me information I asked for in letter I sent you?
- h) I bought jewellery for my sister but it wasn't kind she likes.
- i) I always wanted to be astronaut but ambition wore off.
- j) And last of all, don't forget to put cat out for night.



8 Underline the most suitable option. A dash (–) means that no article is needed.

- a) Brenda is the/– ideal for a/the job. She has a/– wealth of the/– experience.
- b) The/– safety at the/– work is a/– major concern for us.
- c) The/– poorest people in the/– country live in this city.
- d) Have you seen a/the new 'Hamlet' at the/– National Theatre?
- e) There is a/– beautiful countryside within an/– easy reach of a/the hotel.
- f) I have a/– terrible cold and am staying in the/– bed today.
- g) I earn £3 an/the hour as a/– supermarket cashier on the/– Saturdays.
- h) The/– charge for an/– excess luggage is £10 a/the kilo.
- i) The/– most of the/– life is a/– matter of getting on with the/– others.
- j) This country is officially called The/– United Kingdom of The/– Great Britain and The/– Northern Ireland.